



Class Notes 6:9 Decolonization

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Process of Decolonization and Nation- Building

- Surge of anti-colonial nationalism after 1945. Leaders used lessons in mass politicization and mass mobilization of 1920's and 1930's.
- ◆ Three patterns:
 1. Civil war (China)
 2. Negotiated independence (India and much of Africa)
 3. Incomplete de-colonization (Palestine, Algeria and Southern Africa, Vietnam)

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Pre-WWII

- 1931, Britain: Statute of Westminster
 - converted the British Empire into the British Commonwealth
 - also allowed varying degrees of autonomy

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End of WWII

- 1941 – Atlantic Charter written by Roosevelt and Churchill – affirming all nations the right self determination
- By the end of WWII, colonialism seemed to contradict the spirit of the Allies fight against Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy
- Over 200,000 Africans had fought in Europe and Asia for the Allies' freedom and democracy – most noticed the contradiction

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End of WWII

- In 1945, the 5th Pan African Congress met and discussed the prospect of independence – attending were a number of leaders who would eventually lead their nations to independence
- In the years immediately after the war, several colonies had achieved independence or were on the road to independence in north east Africa, some peacefully, others not

Slide 5

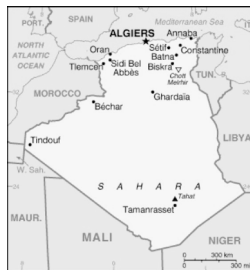
End of WWII

- Started a new pan-African nationalism that would spread throughout continent
- In 1960 the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 1514 that supported the end of colonization

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French Colonies in North Africa

- Immediately after WWII, France attempted to reassert dominance in colonies
- The French saw violent reactions to actions in Tunisia and Algeria



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French Colonies in North Africa

- Instead of rejecting Africa, France embraced French nationalism in Africa
- Africans who learned French and French culture experienced semi-equal status with citizens in France



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French Colonies in North Africa

- Though limited, the French colonies were given representation in French parliament in the Fourth French Republic in 1947
- Despite advantages, most nationalists still sought independence



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French Colonies in North Africa

- Unlike other African colonies, Algeria was a settler's colony with almost one million French immigrants
- Clashes between white settlers and Africans would result in the death of thousands before independence was gained



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West Africa

- Interaction with Europeans date back to the 1400s
- West Africans had adopted many elements of western civilization
- Early ties allowed more opportunities for education and modernization
- Nationalists in West Africa drew from their own history and western influences

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West Africa

- As a result, independence in West Africa was more “natural” for both the Africans and the European powers
- Once the Ghana (formerly the Gold Coast) became the first republic in West Africa, the movements in neighboring British and French colonies intensified

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Southern Africa

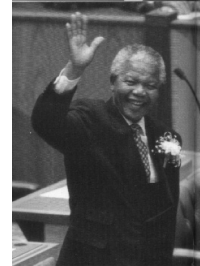
- South Africa gained independence from Britain in 1910
- White minority dominated political and economic institutions
- Educated Africans began organizing movement to gain power



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Southern Africa

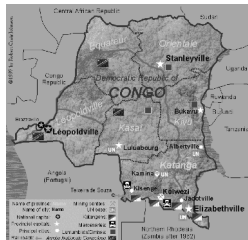
- The African National Congress (ANC) tried to reason with government
- In 1960, after a African riot, the government instituted strict measures to formally separate the races in South Africa through a system known as apartheid



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Central Africa

- The colonies in central Africa were far less prepared
- Education opportunities for Africans were severely limited – in the Belgium Congo fewer than 120 Africans had a college education



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Central Africa

- In 1956 Belgium had only vague 30 year plan for the Congo's independence
- By 1960, the Belgians had turned control over to the Patrice Lumumba



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Congo

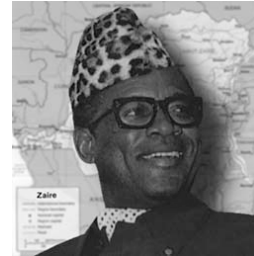
- Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba hoped to reform the Congo and take advantage of its vast natural resources
- Two mineral rich provinces did not wish to be subjugated by the republic and declared independence

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Congo

- When the U.N. and western powers would not provide support to stop the secessionists, Lumumba turned to the Soviet Union who sent military equipment and advisors
- Fearing a communist Congo, the United States encouraged General Joseph Mobutu to take control
- After the coup, Lumumba was murdered



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Congo

- Over the years, Mobutu would be rewarded with loans and payments from the west for his strong anti-communist rhetoric
- As dictator, Mobutu also embezzled millions of dollars, stifled economic development, and repressed his people



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